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ABSTRACT

This is the second volume of a report on the findings of an international research effort designed to analyze the structures and impact of study abroad programs offered by higher education institutions in France, West Germany, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. This volume focuses primarily upon study abroad program participants, their characteristics and the effects that their experiences have on them. Chapter One describes the research methodology; namely, surveys of program participants before and after their experience. Chapter Two details the students' personal, academic, and social backgrounds. Chapter Three describes experiences of students in the study abroad programs. Chapter Four reviews the formal, academic goals of programs and assesses their success in relation to those goals with the exception of effects on foreign language proficiency which is the topic of Chapter Five. Chapter Six examines the cultural impacts of the study abroad experience on participants. Chapter Seven addresses the importance of these experiences on later careers. Chapter Eight sets out the results of a statistical analysis designed to identify some of the key determinants of changes in student competences related to study abroad. The final chapter presents conclusions. Many tables and figures supplement the text. (JB)

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